



Chalice Communicator

March 29, 2022

Number 3

Senior Pastor: Rev. Connor Thompson

Assoc. Pastor: Rev. Jeff Wilder

Music Director: Michael Hefner

Moderator: John Rabbovsky

Elders: Natalie Byrd
Zola McClish
Karen Powers
Lora Schueller
Karen Thompson

SEE YOU IN WORSHIP

Traditional Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Modern Worship – Thursday @7:30 PM

Lenten Study- March 8th- April 12th
@7 PM via Zoom

STATISTICS: Attendance Offering

03/27	32/17	\$1,375.00
03/20	37/18	\$1,040.00
03/13	37/23	\$1,638.96
03/06	32/14	\$1,399.00
02/27	33	\$1,722.00

Attendance on Ash Wednesday was 21

Memorials \$100.00

Week of Compassion- \$130.00

Important numbers/emails:

Pastor Connor Thompson

(513) 594-0070

pastorconnorlthompson@gmail.com

Assoc. Pastor Jeff Wilder

(513) 594-5421

mastermasonjeff@gmail.com

Connor's Commentary

Greetings and welcome to April in the midst of the season of Lent 2022.

We have been a busy church with Modern Worship going well on Thursday nights and growing. We have welcomed several new members into the First Christian Church family!

We have had great children's programming offered by Steven & Tyler Bowen as well as Carly Wilder. We have had a great group of volunteers stepping up to serve in worship with our Elders, Deacons, and Tech Team.

We have had weekly Bible study as we have progressed through Lent, and we are looking into keeping a weekly study going the rest of the spring. We are preparing for several baptisms on Easter Sunday and in the coming months.

The scouts meet each week, and there are multiple Eagle Scout projects in progress on our property.

The leaders are preparing to resume in-person visitation for those who request visits.

There are so many wonderful things going on in the life of First Christian Church right now. I just want to tell you all thank you! But also, don't stop! This is a starting point, not the destination.

There are various kinds of small groups that are starting to be discussed, as well as new fellowship opportunities. As we announce new opportunities, plan to attend!

I hope you will join us for Holy week as we close out Lent with the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ!

Keep yourselves healthy and busy!

I will see you in Worship!

Pastor Connor





Prayer List:

Health: Ken Amburgey, Kristen Beck, Michael Hefner, Marla Marsh, Linda Neanover, Karen Thompson

Special Needs: Lois Murphy

Other: All those affected by disasters and pandemic. Caregivers, first responders, the homeless, heroin epidemic, racism and all human rights, our Country & World, war, violence, our church, congregation and church leaders



To my Christian family at FCC,

I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for all your thoughts and prayers and beautiful cards during my cancer treatments and recovery. There really are no words that I can truly say that would express my emotions of overwhelming gratitude and heartfelt thankfulness! The out pouring of love and support has truly been a source of healing and comfort to me! I have truly missed being in church and providing music each week, I am looking forward to being back with you on Easter Sunday! May our loving Lord bless each and every one of you!

In Christ’s love, Michael

Dear Members of Community Ministries,

Thank you for your continued support of WHIIMS through your generous gift and for your continual prayer support. We find ourselves very busy with many clients in need of financial, educational and spiritual assistance. Your continued support is much appreciated.

WHIIMS (Women's Health Issues in Miami Valley Sisterhood) 3/3/2022

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift to the CWS Blankets program. As families and communities around the world recover from emergencies and struggle in the face of unprecedented challenges you are standing

with them. Now more than ever, we are so grateful for your generous support.

Your contribution provides warmth, comfort and hope to neighbors near and far. It provides a tangible reminder to migrant families that they are not alone as they seek safety. It wraps refugees in warmth as they arrive in the United States to build a new future. It provides comfort to our neighbors who have lost homes or are struggling in the face of extreme challenges. Around the world, your support means relief and hope. Because of you, Church World Service is able to respond when disasters occur and support is needed. Thanks to your compassion, we can-and we will-change lives.

Sincerely, Rick Santos
President and CEO
Church World Services

ELDER MOMENT

The Elders continue to serve in weekly worship. We continue to reach out to the congregation by phone and mail. We will resume in person visitation in April. We have assisted with transportation needs of the congregation as they have arisen. We are starting a new project on Christian Tipping. A jar will be on the table in the narthex to collect change or folding money until June. We will pick a restaurant and order a beverage and when the bill arrives, we will tip the server with the collected money and a note of appreciation. We will return the jar to the table in the narthex again and continue doing this each quarter.

In Christian Love,
Your, Elders

CWF NEWS

Sarah Circle will meet at 1:00 pm April 7th at the church. We will have a study on Proverbs and a business meeting. All ladies of the church are invited.

We are in the process of organizing a collection of items which will be given to Matthew 25 Ministries for the Ukrainian refugees. Some items will also be given to friends of Crystal who will be traveling to Poland to help with the refugee situation. The following is a list of items that are needed:

- New and gently used clothing,
- Personal care supplies (toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, antibacterial soap, etc.)
- First aid supplies (band aids, gauze, bandages, antiseptic cream, etc.)
- Feminine hygiene items
- Paper products (toilet paper, paper towels)
- Linens, blankets, sheets
- Baby supplies (blankets, diapers, wipes, etc.)
- New stuffed teddy bears (12 inches high or smaller)

This is a good time to do some spring cleaning and donate some good used clothing and linens to this cause. We may also make up some health kits (hand towel, washcloth, large tooth comb, nail clippers, soap, 10 band aids, and toothbrush) for this project. We will have some large boxes in the narthex or Fellowship Hall to collect these items.

Marilyn Chamberlain, CWF President

Join us for Holy Week 2022

Sunday April 10th

Palm Sunday: Traditional Worship

Time: 10:30 AM

Tuesday April 12th

Lenten Study: The Lord's Prayer

Time: 7:00 PM

Thursday April 14th

Maundy Thursday at First Baptist Church

4500 Riverview Ave. Middletown, OH 45042

Time: 7:00 PM

Friday April 15th

Good Friday Service at Faith United & New Life Ministries

9 Baltimore St. Middletown, OH 45044

Time: TBD

Sunday April 17th

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunrise Service: 8:15 AM

Easter Breakfast: 9:00 AM

Easter Worship: 10:30 AM

Easter Egg Hunt: 11:45 AM

Easter Special Offering



April 10th
and 17th

Several
times a year,
congregation
s receive a
special
offering to

support the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These gifts are given above and beyond the regular core support of Disciples Mission Fund.

The Easter Offering, received by most congregations on April 10 & 17, 2022, supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church. Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and so much more.

More information is available at <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/easter/>

FCC Open & Affirming Initiative

I am excited to be part of the process to publically affirm FCC as an open & affirming congregation. The process actually started with the development of our mission statement put in place a few years ago. It helps to show the community that FCC welcomes **ALL** to our church family in worship, activities and leadership. Several volunteers participated in round-table discussions. I would like to thank all for investing their time. I also partnered with Melissa Guthrie who is the Executive Director of the Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance and has helped many congregations with this process. The Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance are members of the Christian Church (DOC) called to join in God's work of transforming the Christian Church (DOC) into a just and inclusive church that welcomes persons of all gender expressions and sexual identities into the full life and leadership of the church. By displaying their logo publically we will be identified and listed as an open & affirming congregation. Along with the membership comes expected attributes, most of which are already in practice. A ministry is **OPEN** when it commits to communicating its welcome publicly as we do in our Mission statement. A ministry is **AFFIRMING** when it commits to preaching and teaching a gospel which understands that God does not reject or condemn people solely for their gender expression or sexual orientation. Information was presented to the Elders at their March meeting as well as the General Board. Both groups are in favor of presenting the motion for a congregational vote on April 3rd along with two other items. Information will be made available at the church and sent by email for review before the vote. Additional resources are also available at disciplesallianceq.org.

Faithfully,

Crystal Watson

Vice-Moderator

Cwatson1228@gmail.com

Save the Date: Regional Assembly Saturday September 24



Our Biennial Regional Assembly will be on Saturday, September 24 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and will be a completely different format and flavor! We are hosting "A Family Reunion" at Camp Christian that day and we will have games and fellowship activities in addition to a little bit of business and the celebration of our ministries these past two years. All of our Christian Church in Ohio members, family, and friends are welcome to attend! More information to come!

Central Christian Church Kettering Resumes Monthly Jazz Band Concerts

Central Christian Church of Kettering has resumed its monthly Jazz Band Concerts after they were suspended due to COVID. The Central Jazz Band offers a concert every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the church's sanctuary. The concert is free, however a donation of \$5 or non-perishable food item is joyfully received to go towards the congregation's food ministry. The concert is also livestreamed on the congregation's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cccket>.

The photo is of lifelong musicians - Bryce Newton (KCS band director) on flute and Phillip Erskine (Fairmont band parent) on Trombone playing together on a recent concert of the Central Jazz Big Band.



Summer Camp & Conference Registration 2022 Now Open!

The Camp Christian Summer 2022 Camp and Conference registration forms and information are now available through our website. They are all available for download in one place on the [Summer Forms, Downloads, and Links page](#). They can all also be accessed through each of the Ministry's web pages and on each of the corresponding dates on the [Regional Calendar](#). Please feel free to post and share this information with as many people as possible.

As with last Summer, there is a Covid-19 Policy that will be updated as health recommendations change. The Camp Christian Committee and Christian Church in Ohio Staff are working closely with the Union County Health Department on this policy. The policy can be viewed [HERE](#).

A MOMENT FOR HISTORY VOLUNTEERS

First Christian Church is not just a church for the people, but by the people. We have had a myriad of clergy, whether they have been called Preacher, Minister or Pastor, they are our leaders, teachers and counselors. They can be the glue that holds a congregation together, but the ones that hold the church together are the many volunteers. Some of these volunteers are elected by the congregation to the offices they hold, while others just step forward when they see something needs to be done. They not only run the business of the church but there are always other things that need to be done. There are Sunday School teachers, those that mow the lawn and take care of the flower beds (our Gardening Angels), youth leaders, choir, attending to kitchen duties, working at Camp Christian and presently our office staff is comprised of volunteers. Without all these folks we would not have the church we love.

Having been a member of this church all my life, as a child I didn't realize the importance of the work all those men and women did for the church. I can still see the faces of those volunteers from the past. Today is no different. Volunteers are needed as much as they ever were. We have fewer people in attendance, so there are fewer of us to volunteer. Right now, several people are filling multiple positions and this can't go on forever. They are going to get tired, suffer from burnout. As the old saying goes "It takes a village.....". Well, it takes a congregation to keep a church alive.

As Covid restrictions begin to relax, and people begin to return to services, or even if you are watching remotely, think about serving your church. There are opportunities for people to serve regardless of age or physical ability. It will soon be time for our nominating committee to ask people to consider a position on the General Board or other positions needed around the church. Please give it some thought and prayer. If you have any questions, or want to let someone know you would like to serve, call our Board Moderator, John Ralbovsky, either of our pastors, the church office, or any Board member. Take a look around the sanctuary any given Sunday and you'll see many volunteers.







April, 2022



Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3  5th Sunday in Lent	4	5	6	7 Sarah Circle 1pm @church Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	8	9
10  Pastor Jeff  Easter Offering	11	12	13	14  Service at First Baptist Church 7PM	15  Service at Faith United & New Life Ministries Time TBD	16
17  Dave Schueller <i>Easter Sunday</i> Sunrise 8:15 Breakfast 9:00 Service 10:30 Egg Hunt 11:45 Easter Offering	18	19 Elder Mtg. @ 7 PM	20	21 Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	22  Leah Hardewig 	23
24 Board Mtg. Following Church; Newsletter Articles due	25	26	27	28 Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	29	30

First Christian Church

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